

**Wasatch Front Regional Council
Air Quality Committee
Meeting Summary – May 20, 2010**

Attending:

Committee Members

Mayor Ralph Becker, SLC
Chuck Chappell, WFRC
Elden Bingham (*for Ahmad Jaber*), UDOT
Mayor Darrell Smith, Draper
Bryce Bird (*for Cheryl Heying*), DAQ
Kip Billings, WFRC
Mayor JoAnn Seghini, Midvale
Commissioner Jan Zogmaister, Weber Co.
Councilman Carlton Christensen (*alternate*)
Commissioner John Petroff, Davis Co.

Others

Wayne Bennion, WFRC
Ned Hacker, WFRC
Michele Straube, Salt Lake Solutions
Kate Lilja, SLC
Kathy VanDame, Wasatch Clean Air Coalition
Susan Hardy, MAG

Summary

CO2 Standards – Congressional law or EPA rule making is expected within the next 9-12 months on this issue. Chuck noted that the proposed American Power Act drafted by Sen. Kerry and Sen. Lieberman is unlikely to pass. A summary of the draft APA legislation prepared by AMPO was passed out to those present. The draft legislation is incentive based. The initial focus is on large point sources, primarily power plants; but the legislation also impacts private automobile travel as fees would be charged to oil companies for producing gasoline and diesel fuel and these costs will be passed to consumers. EPA rulemaking is likely if this legislation fails.

Commissioner Petroff asked about a proposed bill that would limit EPA rulemaking authority.

Mayor Becker noted that regardless of the policy process and timing, it is in our interest to be prepared to be proactive regarding CO2 emissions.

Chuck noted that incentive funds may become available as a result of CO2 policy which is another reason to be in a position to act quickly regarding CO2 emission reduction strategies.

Clear the Air Challenge/Ozone Strategies – Michele Straube of Salt Lake Solutions reviewed the goals and details of the Clear the Air Challenge for this summer. Kate Lilja has been hired by SLC to help SL Solutions with the CTAC as part of the City's three-year EPA grant.

The CTAC aims to take the "Drive Less/Drive Smarter" message beyond the Salt Lake area. This year's CTAC goals double those from 2009:

2 million vehicle miles reduced

3.4 million pounds of emissions reduced

Target markets include local businesses, Utah County, and Davis County. Mayor Becker, Governor Herbert, and Mayor Caroon will kickoff the event on June 15.

Michele asked for CTAC liaisons from Draper (Geraldine Hancock) and Midvale (Mayor Seghini to contact Michele after the meeting).

Motion – Recommend WFRC endorse the CTAC at the 5/27 Council meeting - ***passed***

Air Quality Scorecard – Kip Billings of WFRC presented the “Air Quality Scorecard” summarizing air quality monitor data and national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). Wasatch Front counties are meeting the CO and PM₁₀ NAAQS, but failing the latest PM_{2.5} and ozone NAAQS. Exceptional events (high winds) are problematic for wind-blown dust and is cause for some dispute between DAQ and EPA whether Salt Lake County is meeting the PM₁₀ standard or not.

DAQ is currently engaged in preparing a new PM_{2.5} SIP with support from WFRC, MAG, UDOT and other agencies. This plan will outline strategies and targets for emission reductions necessary to meet the new PM_{2.5} standards. The PM_{2.5} SIP is due by December 2012. Bryce stated that about 50% of PM_{2.5} related emissions are from automobiles. About 70% of PM_{2.5} is considered “secondary particles” – these are particles formed from combustion related gaseous emissions that react in the atmosphere to form these very small particles.

WFRC will need to make a PM_{2.5} conformity determination on the existing RTP by December 2010. Preliminary evaluations of PM_{2.5} precursor emissions (NOx) indicate that this conformity test will be positive.

Ozone standards will likely be made even more restrictive by August 2010. A new SIP addressing ozone levels will also be required of DAQ but there will a little more time to prepare the plan than the PM_{2.5} SIP.

AQ Proactive Solutions – Mayor Becker asked for input on proactive air quality solutions. Public sentiment is “Do something about air quality!” VMT reduction is often the first strategy that comes to mind. The Mayor asked those present to brainstorm other effective strategies:

- % transit investment
- Control of small sources
- Electric cars
- Behavior changes

Mayor Becker stated that we have “an opportunity to shape the future” and that we should continue to “seek proactive solutions”. This discussion item will be continued on the next AQC agenda.