

TREASURE VALLEY AIR QUALITY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

January 24, 2006

The Treasure Valley Air Quality Council (“Council”) convened at 1:30 p.m. on January 24, 2006, at the Canyon County Courthouse, 1115 Albany Street, Caldwell, Idaho.

Council members present:

Matt Beebe, Chairman, Canyon County Board of Commissioners
Tammy DeWeerd, Mayor, City of Meridian
William Eddie, Advocates for the West
Beth Elroy, Micron Technology
Gary Multanen, Best Bath Systems
John McCreedy, Amalgamated Sugar
Garret Nancolas, Mayor, City of Caldwell
Pete O’Neill, O’Neill Enterprises, Council Chairman
Alan Prouty, J.R. Simplot Company
Rick Stott, Agri Beef Company (via telephone)
Graye Wolfe, Wolfe Ranches
Rick Yzaguirre, Chairman, Ada County Board of Commissioners

Council members absent:

Michael Gifford, Associated General Contractors

Department of Environmental Quality (“DEQ”) staff present:

Debra Cline, Management Assistant and Recorder
June Hues, Airshed Manager, Boise Region Office
Bruce Louks, Monitoring, Modeling, and Emission Inventory Manager, State Air Quality Program
Michael McGown, Administrator, Boise Region Office
Robert Wilkosz, Mobile and Area Source Air Manager, State Air Quality Program

Others Present:

Beth Baird, Boise City
Phil Bandy, Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Dan Black, Idaho Press
Allen Freeman, Citizen Canyon County
Claudia Haynes, Citizen Canyon County
Della Johnson, Citizen Canyon County
Charles Johnson, Citizen Canyon County
Matt Stoll, Executive Director, COMPASS
Greg Vitley, Idaho Department of Transportation

Approval of December 15, 2005 Meeting Minutes

- **MOTION:** Tammy DeWeerd moved the Council accept the minutes of the December 15, 2005 meeting as presented.
SECOND: Graye Wolfe
VOICE VOTE: Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Review of Study List Compiled by DEQ

Mike McGown, Regional Administrator, DEQ Boise Region Office, noted all information being developed for the Council will be posted to the Treasure Valley Air Quality Council Web page on the Clean Air Idaho Web site at: <http://air.idaho.gov>. The study list is not complete. Staff will continue to search for more data sources, and update the Web site.

June Hues, Airshed Manager, DEQ Boise Region Office, distributed the list, *State Implementation Plans, Maintenance Plans, and Studies Log* (Attachment 1) for the Council's review. The document is a current listing of information pulled from the DEQ state and region office and the COMPASS library. Ms. Hues requested members notify her of any other studies or agencies who might have information for inclusion in the list.

Ms. Hues noted the information was broken down by pollutant. Gary Multanen commented he was hoping to see more conclusions in the studies. Ms. Hues explained some of the studies, such as those that were done to answer a question, would have conclusions; while others would not. For example, the State Implementation Plans are prepared to plan how the air quality will be managed. She offered to evaluate the studies and prepare conclusions or language the Council might find useful as a reference tool. Mr. Multanen suggested she review just two of the studies, as a sample, to see if such a format would be valuable to the Council. Ms. Hues will prepare the information and distribute it to all Council members for review.

Council members asked if the following information could be added to the summaries of the studies:

- a baseline
- What is the problem (what is being measured)?
- What steps have been taken to improve it?
- How has it improved?
- What steps remain to be taken and what are the anticipated outcomes?
- What is the federal standard or goal?
- What is the current status of the maintenance plan? What action has EPA taken?

Ms. Hues will prepare the requested information and add a brief summary of Idaho's history with each standard. John McCreedy suggested the study list be renamed and identified as a Treasure Valley Air Quality Council draft working document. This compilation of historical data should remain in draft form and be a work in progress until the plan is complete. Mr. McCreedy commented the study list was an excellent start, and the most comprehensive compilation he had seen.

Mike McGown clarified many of the studies (State Implementation Plans, Air Quality Improvement Plans, and Maintenance Plans) were prepared to respond to requirements under the Clean Air Act because of a violation of the federal standard. The studies prescribed how Idaho would move forward to fix an existing problem. Both Maintenance Plans (for carbon monoxide and PM₁₀) were approved by EPA, and DEQ feels those problems have been solved. The challenge now is how to become proactive in dealing with ozone and PM_{2.5} so we can avoid violations of those standards and the problems associated with noncompliance.

Tammy DeWeerd thought it would be helpful to have a clear understanding of the lessons learned from the past studies and corrective measures that were taken – what was effective and what was not. Chairman O’Neill added it was important to look at the historical issues to learn any connection to the current issues and ways to deal with them. They can then identify gaps in scientific information, consider studies that are in process, and move on to proactive solutions. He felt the Council should focus on solutions that are proactive rather than reactive.

Beth Elroy suggested DEQ contact the Joint Legislative Environmental Common Sense Committee (ECSC) to see if they had any studies or information that could be added to the list of historical studies. The ECSC had DEQ do a study on vehicle emission testing last year. Mike McGown indicated there were two parts to the study; a PowerPoint presentation and a letter. The documents will be added to the list. June Hues said she would search for additional presentations that might be valuable additions to the list.

Gary Multanen commented it would be helpful if the information could be presented in a way that would allow the Council members to get up to speed and become experts in air quality issues as quickly as possible without having to read enormous amounts of technical materials. June Hues said DEQ hopes to be able to educate the Council on the air quality issues through presentations and discussion to provide the background and knowledge needed to understand the studies and data.

Matt Beebe offered to share the information on vehicle emission testing gathered by Canyon County in October 2000. The County launched an extensive investigation into the issue, which culminated in an emissions ordinance. The ordinance was predicated on the large cities within the County also enacting ordinances. When the cities failed to enact supporting ordinances, the County repealed its ordinance. The information may offer an historical perspective that could be of assistance.

Beth Elroy expressed concern about the lack of current data, and asked if there was an updated version of the 1999 emission inventory. June Hues responded the 1999 emission inventory and report is the most detailed and complete data available at this time. The 1999 emission inventory was conducted for the 2002 Maintenance Plan for PM₁₀. This was a federal regulatory requirement that allowed DEQ to have greater authority to request more specific information. The 2002 and 2005 emission inventories do not contain the same scale and level of detail. Data was only available from facilities who supplied it on a voluntary basis.

Bruce Louks explained the 2002 and 2005 emission inventories were three-year cycle inventories, and DEQ did not have the authority to require sources to report specific data. The area sources and the emission inventory were done at county level, rather than on the four

kilometer grid as was done for the 1999 emission inventory. The 2002 and 2005 emission inventories also do not contain the information on volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that are precursors to ozone and PM_{2.5} formation.

Gary Multanen asked if there would be follow-up studies or if the next three-year cycle emission inventory would contain the more detailed information. Mr. Louks explained that in 1999, federal regulations included the authority to request information on these hazardous air pollutants, but subsequent changes to the Consolidated Emissions Reporting Rule (CERR) removed that authority. A new federal air emission reporting rule package is currently soliciting comments from stakeholders. It includes the question of whether authority should be provided for agencies to request emission information on hazardous air pollutants. Until that rule is final, DEQ will not know whether the information could be included in the next three-year cycle emission inventory.

Mike McGown agreed it would be helpful to have an up-to-date comprehensive emission inventory. It is very costly to do such a study. The 2002 study which used the 1999 emission inventory cost about two million dollars. He noted the 2002 study did project forward.

William Eddie asked if there was other state-based authority DEQ could use to request the more detailed information. Mike McGown explained the Idaho stringency law requires state rules to be no more stringent than federal rules. When the 1999 study was done, DEQ had additional authority under federal rules because it was a non-attainment area due to violation of a standard.

Mr. Multanen questioned how progress could be gauged if a comparative study could not be done. Alan Prouty believed there was adequate information available in terms of emission inventories. He pointed out the main issues were ozone and PM_{2.5}; and the information on VOCs, ammonia, sulfur, sulfur oxides, and oxygen oxides are the key elements with those issues. He did not think it was necessary to know individual hazardous air pollutants for the Council to do its job. Mr. McGown noted there are some reactive differences in some of the VOCs for ozone formation that could play a role that we don't have the information for, but as a general statement, he agreed with Mr. Prouty's comments. The question is whether the 1999 data set is adequate for the Council's purpose. Mr. McGown acknowledged that while it would be better to have the 1999 data set updated to 2006, there are ways to project the 1999 data.

Chairman O'Neill asked if there were general trends that could be observed. Mr. Louks replied it would be difficult to assess because of the lack of consistency in the methodology between the various inventories. The numbers can be rolled up for a broad assessment, but it would not be possible to compare the kind of detailed data needed to show progress in controlling the reactive organic gases that lead to ozone formation. Beth Elroy stated there was information available on the national level to show how we are trending for the different criteria pollutants.

Tammy DeWeerd observed it was not likely there would be funding to do a detailed study such as the 1999 inventory emission. It appears a more general study, such as the three-year cycle emission inventory that is easily replicated, is a more realistic study to establish a base. June Hues responded while those inventories could be used to compare data and gauge progress, she did not think this would be the best method because it does not provide the level of detail needed

for key pollutants. The Council will need to decide what it wants to measure and how often to gauge progress.

Beth Elroy asked how the CERR process works. She noted the 2002 data showed industrial point sources contributed about 3.5% of the total VOCs in the area. She asked how DEQ gathered data from the other 96.5% of the contributors. Bruce Louks explained sources such as motor vehicles, are determined from outputs of mobile models. Other activities such as dry cleaners, paints, etc. are inventoried and emissions determined by guidebooks that calculate how many grams of pollutant are produced from the volume of compounds used in their operations. A lot of the agricultural data is not counted.

Presentation on Overview of Air Quality in the Treasure Valley

June Hues presented *Air Quality in the Treasure Valley* (Attachment 2), an overview of air quality issues and possible solutions. A more specific presentation on PM_{2.5} and ozone, and a more thorough discussion of options to control air quality are planned for the next meeting.

Suggested solutions include:

- Promote alternative transportation – funding mass transit
- Control emissions of diesel exhaust (truck stop electrification to limit idling)
- Bus and diesel vehicle retrofits
- Land use planning and coordination
- Anti-idling zones
- Local ordinances for fugitive dust and open burning enforcement
- Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control ammonia emissions, dust, and smoke
- Control VOC-Stage One vapor recovery - retrofits at fueling stations
- Control NO_x – require emission controls on lawn equipment (lawnmower exchange programs that trade pre -1998 gas lawnmowers for less polluting gas or electric models)
- Construction BMPs – fugitive dust control plans
- Updated vehicle emission program
- Alternative and biofuel programs
- Industrial permit requirements
- Public information campaigns
- Siting committees to help locate facilities in the best area

Ms. Hues explained it is important to understand what the sources are, to determine what the solution should be. There are cost-benefit considerations, as well as unintended consequences that must be weighed. Solutions also need to be able to respond to brief episodes such as inversions. For example, in 2002, COMPASS paid for free bus rides to reduce traffic during an inversion.

Tammy DeWeerd asked if they were considering simple solutions such as calling a “snow day” during severe inversions to close schools. The reduction in the number of cars and busses on the road would have a significant impact. Mayor DeWeerd was also sensitive to parents’ concern that teachers were telling children they could not go outside during recess because it was so

dangerous. Ms. Hues felt it was important not to overlook such solutions, and that all ideas should be on the table. This is a good example of why it is important to know when and why there is a problem, so a solution can be tailored.

Gary Multanen asked how much the pollution from industrial sources had declined because of permitting. Mike McGown stated the reduction was significant, but it was difficult to know an exact number from the emission inventory. Individual facilities have reduced emissions, but new facilities continue to come into the valley.

Graye Wolfe commented there seemed to be a big vacuum of knowledge in the public regarding vehicle emission testing. He asked why it had been so difficult to address motor vehicle testing in a consistent manner. Ms. Hues explained the existing vehicle emission testing program was originally designed in 1984 to address the carbon monoxide problem, and it was very successful. The program has not changed since 1984, but the problem has changed from carbon monoxide to ozone and PM_{2.5}. The test needs to be modified to address the current problems. She believed this was one of the main reasons Canyon County was not successful in establishing a vehicle emission testing program. There has been a lot of discussion about modifying the Ada County program and using it for the entire Treasure Valley. Ms. Hues hoped this was an approach the Council would investigate and consider. Mike McGown added the issue is rather complicated. For example, if the program is modified to target NO_x (a component of ozone), the actual benefit must be considered and weighed against other solutions. Cleaner fuel and vehicle standards are reducing emissions per vehicle. It may be more beneficial to focus on other solutions that limit the number of vehicles on the road.

Graye Wolfe asked if there was a way to estimate what percentage of the total pollution from on-road vehicles was caused by vehicles that are smoking or have outdated pollution control equipment. Ms. Hues confirmed it was possible to determine that information. Many states have very strict programs to control or remove vehicles with excessive emissions, and it has a significant impact. Mr. Wolfe felt this was an issue that warranted serious consideration.

John McCreedy commented vehicle emissions were a multi-faceted issue that must consider the ability to move traffic and the impact of traffic jams on air quality. It is very hard to identify any one specific "golden bullet" that would be the solution. Ms. Hues agreed the issue was very complex, and should include discussions about land use, sprawl, and community planning.

Beth Elroy asked if it was known what the impacts or reduction each of the proposed solutions would have. Ms. Hues replied the matter is still being investigated. Some of the activities have known general reductions, while others do not. DEQ is still studying to matter to get as much information as possible.

Tammy DeWeerd said it would be helpful to have a chart showing each proposal, what pollutant it targeted, expected impact, and associated cost so the Council could do a comparison. Ms. Hues stated DEQ plans to prepare an entire presentation on the possible solutions.

William Eddie reported DEQ is in the process of wrapping up negotiated rulemaking on a rule for the control of ammonia from dairies. The rule will be submitted to the Board of Environmental Quality at its next meeting. The rule adopts a scientific approach to BMPs to

control ammonia emissions and may have a positive impact on ammonia emissions in the Treasure Valley.

Ms. Hues briefly listed some actions other cities and states are taking to improve air quality, including:

- Clean Green Fleets Program (Seattle) – City vehicles are required to be environmentally friendly.
- Use of Segway units for local transportation (Seattle) – Small electric carts used for meter reading, etc.
- Trip reduction ordinances (Seattle)
- Subsidized alternative commute pass (Salt Lake City) – Free meter parking if alternative fuel is used.
- Sustainability policies (Portland) – Use and reuse, buy recycled, and Smart Park program that allows parking in premium areas for alternative fuel or low emitting vehicles.
- Smoking vehicle hotline (Denver) – Hotline to turn in smoking vehicles and get them off the road.
- Community-based grants (Denver) – Grants for clean air projects.

DEQ plans to bring more comprehensive information to the Council for its consideration.

Implications of the Proposed Change to the federal PM_{2.5} Standard

Robert Wilkosz, Mobile and Area Source Air Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation (Attachment 3) on how the particulate matter standards are changing and how they might affect the Treasure Valley. He briefly reviewed the history of the regulation and discussed the health impacts of PM_{2.5}.

The new reduced standard being suggested by EPA is 35 micrograms per cubic meter for the 24-hour standard. This is based on the best science available, peer reviewed, and considered by the Clean Air Science Advisory Committee. Final action by the EPA is expected in September 2006. Lawsuits are expected to be filed over the decision.

The current EPA standard for PM_{2.5} is:

- Annual standard is 15 micrograms per cubic meter
- 24 hour standard is 65 micrograms per cubic meter.

The current EPA standard for PM₁₀ is:

- Annual average is 50 micrograms per cubic meter.
- 24 hour average is 150 micrograms per cubic meter

EPA has not proposed to change the annual standard for PM_{2.5}, but they are encouraging comment to levels as low as 13 and have indicated they will consider levels as low as 12. In addition, EPA will take comment on alternative approaches for selecting the level of the standard, and on levels as high as the current level of 65 and as low as 25.

EPA has proposed revisions that would change the definition of the PM₁₀ standard so that it covers only particles between 10 and 2.5 micrometers in diameter also known as PM_{10-2.5} and

“inhalable coarse particles.” The proposal would also define the standard to focus on those coarse particles that come from sources that scientific studies indicate cause significant health effects, such as high-density traffic on paved roads, industrial sources, and construction activities. Coarse particles from windblown dust and soils, agricultural sources and mining sources typically found in rural areas do not appear to pose a significant health risk and will not be subject to control in meeting the proposed standard.

The proposed new 24-hour standard for PM_{10-2.5} is 70 micrograms per cubic meter. EPA proposes to revoke the current annual PM₁₀ standards in all areas, and the current 24-hour PM₁₀ standards, except in areas that have both violating monitors and a population of 100,000 or more. Mr. Wilkosz did not expect any problems for Idaho due to the changes in the PM₁₀ standard.

Tammy DeWeerd asked if the EPA process included educating the public on the costs to society of lowering the standards. She thought it would be difficult for the public to provide fair comment without understanding the costs associated with the changes. Mr. Wilkosz explained the law requires EPA to consider only the health effects and the best science in setting the standards. EPA is obligated to set a standard that is protective of human health with a margin of safety. The people they must also protect are the sensitive population such as people with asthma. When EPA has tried to consider the cost when setting the health standards, they have been sued and lost. However, EPA may consider the cost during the implementation phase and may modify the implementation strategy to consider costs.

Mayor DeWeerd observed it seemed confusing that EPA would be proposing stricter standards at the very time they are reducing funding, causing DEQ to shut down seven air quality monitors. Bruce Louks explained DEQ is trying to deal with the loss of funding by shutting down the monitors in the areas that have shown little risk of violating the standards. If the standard is lowered, DEQ will reassess the matter and make adjustments so any at-risk areas can be monitored.

Mr. Wilkosz commented one of the reasons EPA does not look at cost when setting the standard is there are many costs to be considered. One of the costs they will consider in the implementation phase is the cost of health care and the diseases affected by pollution.

Tammy DeWeerd asked if the new standard would be implemented if there was an ongoing lawsuit. Bruce Louks stated implementation of the new standard would not take place until any lawsuits were settled; however, DEQ may implement the monitoring. Additional funding may or may not be given.

Graye Wolfe commented given the timelines, the Council should consider how it wants to deal with the possibility of the standards being lowered.

Mr. Wilkosz briefly discussed how requirements set in existing maintenance plans would be addressed under the new standards. He believed EPA would, as they have done in the past, devise a method of determining equivalents between the old standard and the new standard.

Mr. Wilkosz discussed potential ramifications of EPA’s proposed changes for Idaho. There are two communities (Franklin and Pinehurst) where PM monitors suggest ambient air is quite close

to the proposed annual standard for PM_{2.5}. Five communities (St. Maries, Grangeville, Salmon, Pocatello, Franklin/Preston, and Boise) have monitoring data that suggests they are very close or perhaps over the proposed 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard. The other issue DEQ staff are concerned about is the “form” of the new coarse inhalable PM standard, and how monitoring will be able to tell whether the particles are from agricultural and mining sources or the more harmful urban particulate matter.

Commissioner Matt Beebe asked for further information about the process used to develop the proposed standards and how the scientific information was generated. He believed the medical community should be relied on to make such recommendations on health threats to the public. He asked to be able to review the documentation for the expanded body of scientific information the new standards were based on. Robert Wilkosz stated there are medical doctors and top level professionals from places such as Harvard University and John Hopkins involved. The criteria document is on EPA’s Website and is a collection of all the data used in the process.

Commissioner Beebe was concerned the financial impact of the stricter standards would fall on local government with no method of payment.

Tammy DeWeerd asked about the implementation timeframe of the new standard and how it would affect the Council’s mission. It will be difficult to develop a plan when the standard is a moving target. Robert Wilkosz said it was difficult to estimate, but it would be a very extended timeframe. He noted that DEQ is just now receiving some of the implementation policy documents from EPA on the previous PM_{2.5} standard. If an area is found to be in non-attainment, several years are allowed to develop a plan, and then several more years are allowed to reach attainment.

Chairman O’Neill believed the Council should move forward with its assignment based on the current standards, with an understanding a safety margin may be needed if the stricter standards are implemented in the future. John McCreedy agreed it was important for the Council to focus on its job to develop a plan based on current problems and the standards now in force, noting the standard may change and it is a factor of concern. The proposed standard may take many years to come about.

Presentation on the Open Meeting Law

Garrick Baxter, Deputy Attorney General, gave a presentation and discussion of the Idaho Open Meeting Law (Attachment 4) and provided members with a copy of the Open Meeting Handbook. Mr. Baxter reviewed the law and discussed how it applies to the Council. The Council was created pursuant to statute and is therefore considered a public agency that should comply with the Open Meeting Law. So long as a quorum is present, and the intent is to deliberate or make a decision, the meeting must be open to the public.

Public Participation

Chairman O’Neill discussed the need to move forward quickly with the public participation activities given the short timeline. An important part of that effort will be raising funds to pay for activities and hire an expert in public outreach. Chairman O’Neill felt it was important the

Council seek funding from a variety of interests including industry, cities, counties, and other public entities and not rely heavily on any one sector.

Chairman O'Neill reported a Request for Proposals was sent out to a number of companies in late December, with a request for proposal by January 17, 2006. Proposals were received from Assent, a joint proposal from Gallatin Group and Moore Marketing Media Group, and Scott Perrin and Associates. He suggested a subcommittee be appointed to evaluate the proposals, interview the applicants, and make a recommendation to the full Council at its next meeting. Council members concurred with the suggestion.

Chairman O'Neill appointed Matt Beebe, Gary Multanen, and Rick Stott to serve along with himself on the Subcommittee. He welcomed input from other Council members and stated all the proposal materials were available to the members for review. Graye Wolfe was appointed as an alternate. Council members concurred with the appointments.

Tammy DeWeerd asked if the Subcommittee could also develop recommendations on a budget and fund raising for public participation activities. Chairman O'Neill stated he hoped the public participation consultant would be able to provide guidance on those issues. No formal actions have been taken regarding fundraising, other than the general discussions from the previous meeting. Chairman O'Neill stated he briefly discussed the matter with Senator David Langhorst, who had reassured him it was appropriate to have industry help fund the effort.

John McCreedy asked if the Subcommittee would develop the scope of work the public participation consultant will be asked to perform. Chairman O'Neill said the RFP outlines the scope of work, and it will be emailed to all Council members.

Tammy DeWeerd said COMPASS has extensive experience with public participation. She suggested the Subcommittee contact COMPASS for an idea of the key components and range of costs and services for public participation activities. This could help the Subcommittee set a goal for funding and define a reasonable range of costs and services. DEQ may also be able to provide guidance on how to achieve a solid level of public participation.

Graye Wolfe noted it was important to select a public participation consultant with good media contacts and a good working knowledge of government processes.

Chairman O'Neill reiterated his concern that the Council establish itself as an independent entity and not an outgrowth of DEQ. It is an issue of perception, and hiring a public participation consultant will ensure they do not rely too heavily on DEQ for support.

Mayor Garrett Nancolas commented it is unfortunate when the Legislature passes enabling legislation and does not provide any funding, with the expectation that industry and local government can be relied on as a funding mechanism. He expressed confidence in DEQ staff, stating they have been very helpful to the City of Caldwell on a number of issues. DEQ has a great deal of expertise in the area of public participation because they seek public comment on practically everything they do. Mayor Nancolas suggested the Council to use the expertise of DEQ and COMPASS to the extent possible, and not burden industry and local government any

more than necessary. He agreed there was a need to seek funding, but hoped the Council would be good stewards in keeping costs down.

The Council discussed the possibility of seeking funding and possibly an extension on the July 1, 2006 deadline from the Legislature. The last day to propose new legislation through normal channels is February 13, but it may be possible to go through a special committee after that time. Chairman O'Neill thought it might be wise to meet with some of the committee chairmen to notify them the Council may request an extension and possibly funding. He asked for volunteers to join him in contacting the legislature. Gary Multanen volunteered to assist with the effort, and stated his support for seeking funding from the legislature. He believed it was important to get broad public comment to do a good job, and funding was key to that effort. He suggested the Council match what the Legislature provided.

John McCreedy said he was willing to talk to the Legislature, but suggested the Subcommittee be put in charge of leading the effort. He recommended the Subcommittee prepare a proposal, budget, estimates, and other details before approaching the Legislature. Senator Langhorst may be able to advise the Council on the best path forward. Mayor Nancolas offered his support in approaching the Legislature, and agreed it was important to have a proposal and appropriate documentation before going.

Council members concurred that to fulfill the mission and have the level of public participation and education needed to develop the end product envisioned by the Legislature, it would be necessary to seek additional funding. Chairman O'Neill asked John McCreedy, Alan Prouty, Commissioner Matt Beebe, and Mayor Nancolas to work together to develop a strategy on how to approach the Legislature. The Subcommittee will work on developing a proposal and other supporting documentation.

Chairman O'Neill asked if there had been any action to appoint a new member to the Council to fill the vacancy left by Dr. Holly Lenz. Mike McGown reported he had talked to Dr. Dale Stephenson, a professor at Boise State University, College of Health Sciences, and he has expressed interest in joining the Council. Mr. McGown felt Dr. Stephenson had the credentials and background needed to respond to health questions and would be a valuable addition to the Council. The Council concurred Dr. Stephenson should be endorsed as an appointee to the Council and asked Mr. McGown to contact the Governor's office with the recommendation.

Set Agenda for the Next Meeting

Alan Prouty suggested staff focus on developing more information on the emission inventory to have a starting point to work from. June Hues will develop a discussion on the emission inventory using the 1999 and 2002 data for the next agenda. Chairman O'Neill thought the next step should be to identify the studies that are in process and what needs to be done to fill in the gaps in the data.

Beth Elroy suggested the information from the Governor's conference held in September 2003 be included in the list of data being compiled. She thought the Council should be briefed on the conference and the recommendations that came from it. The Blue Ribbon Taskforce and other organizations may also have recommendations the Council should review. There seems to have

been many recommendations that have not been acted on. If the Council can review a consolidated list of recommendations, it may prevent making the same mistakes.

Commissioner Yzaguirre commented he did not want to get bogged down reviewing stacks of outdated technical information, and believed more current information was needed to make decisions for the future. Bruce Louks noted EPA has recognized the timeline for emission reporting needs to be changed to provide more current information. The complex process is being re-engineered so information will be available for use in a timelier manner. The 2005 emission inventory should be available by the end of 2006. There is also a process that can be used to “grow the data” and project it out into the future using census bureau data. Tammy DeWeerd thought an adequate base could be established using trending to project, and considering mitigating activities that have been taken to improve air quality.

Chairman O’Neill asked staff to provide a briefing on the Governor’s conference and other recommendations that might be useful. Mike McGown will have staff prepare the presentation and documentation for the next meeting.

Mayor Tammy DeWeerd was excused from the meeting at 5:40 p.m. to attend to city business.

Beth Elroy believed one of the objectives of the Council should be to act as a central focus point of all of the various organizations working on air quality issues. The Council should encourage collaboration to prevent duplication of efforts. Chairman O’Neill agreed and thought COMPASS was a key partner in future implementation. He discussed the importance of implementing comprehensive plans to prevent urban sprawl and the need to educate the public to clear up current misconceptions before a new program can be presented.

William Eddie suggested a briefing on the consequences and impacts of non-attainment be considered for a future agenda. He also suggested the Council consider bringing outside resources to the table, such as representatives from other agencies and states, to provide presentations. Chairman O’Neill asked members to think about possible sources for presentations. He said the Idaho Farm Bureau has asked to provide a presentation at a future meeting. The Council also needs to determine, hopefully with the guidance of a public participation consultant, how it will manage and receive public comment.

Matt Beebe was concerned the Council would not be able to complete the plan by the current deadline and suggested they ask the Legislature for an extension of time at the same time they ask for funding. There are some huge tasks, such as the public participation and public awareness components, which will be very time consuming. Chairman O’Neill was still hopeful the plan could be completed at least in draft form by the deadline. He was concerned that an extension would move the process out a full year, and could affect the Council’s chances of getting funding.

Beth Elroy agreed with Chairman O’Neill’s comments and was not in favor of asking for an extension of the deadline at this time. She asked if the next agenda would include a discussion on the establishment of a citizen’s committee. Chairman O’Neill replied he hoped to have the public outreach consultant on-board and involved when the Council addresses that process. He

hoped the Subcommittee would have a recommendation for the Council to vote on at the next meeting.

John McCreedy disclosed that Amalgamated Sugar employs the Gallatin Group's services. Commissioner Yzaguirre stated the record should also note that Scott Perrin and Associates represents the Air Quality Board. Graye Wolfe added he has also worked extensively with Scott Perrin and Associates.

John McCreedy stated he would go along with the will of the Council regarding requesting an extension of time. However, he recommended if an extension is not requested at this time, the Council at least discuss the matter with Senator Langhorst and let him know it is a matter of concern and a request for an extension may presented before the end of the Legislative session. Commissioner Beebe added it might also be helpful to ask for guidance from Senator Langhorst to define how "draft" the draft plan that is due on July 1 can be, and to clarify the timeline for final submittal. Mr. McCreedy believed the intent for final submittal was the 2007 Legislative session.

Mr. McCreedy noted the first two requirements of the Act were to compile historical data on air quality studies and assess current and projected emissions. The historical data list seems to be well started and should be ready for review at the next meeting. He suggested DEQ compile a working draft Assessment of Current and Projected Emissions for the Council's review at the next meeting. The Council can then check those two items off and move forward. He noted the next requirement was the completion of a comprehensive scientifically based study of air quality in the Treasure Valley. Mr. McCreedy believed this would be an unattainable goal without additional funding.

Mayor Nancolas observed it seemed unlikely the Legislature intended the draft plan that is due by the July 1, 2006 deadline to be a skeleton plan, because it has to go out for public comment, and it would be impossible to get meaningful comments on such a plan. He thought it was important for the Council to stay on track and move forward so an extension would not be needed.

Chairman O'Neill felt the data existed to meet the requirements of the Act, but it will be a tough challenge.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Pete O'Neill, Chairman

Debra L. Cline, Management Assistant
and Recorder